

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in view of the above Amendment and the discussion below.

Claims 12, 13, 18 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Kitsukawa (U.S. Patent No.: 4,768,677). In response to this rejection Applicants have amended independent claim 12 to contain the limitations of allowable claim 14 and have amended claim 15 to be in independent form with the remaining claims 16-20 now depending from allowable independent amended claim 12.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite with regard to the items indicated at the bottom of page 5 and the top of page 6. Applicants have reviewed the claims to address the items raised by the Examiner either by providing a proper antecedent basis or using proper alternate language. Claim 1 has been amended to refer back to the “filler neck”, by changing “reaches through” to “extends through” and by reciting “a” ring opening which is item 13 discussed in the specification at paragraph [0015] and shown in the drawing. With respect to the term “ring collar” and the “centering element”, Applicants again refer to paragraph [0015] for a discussion of the ring collar 17A shown in the drawing. With respect to the “profile leg of an interior side of the neck”, Applicants have amended claim 2 to refer to a U-shape cross-section with two profile legs 14, 15 with a first profile leg 12 on an interior side of the filler neck 19 and a second leg 15 adjacent to the fastening section 11. This is supported in the specification and shown in the drawings.

The specification and the abstract have been amended in accordance with item 3 and 4 of page 3 of the patent Office Action.

The drawings were objected to because they fail to show the plastic material in alternating thick and thin lines and because the cross-hatching of the components of the lid is not in accordance with standard practice.

Applicants respectfully traverse this requirement on the grounds that the

specification at paragraph [0015] indicates that the centering element 12 is preferably constructed in one piece as a "plastic part". Additionally, it is submitted that the claims do not recite that the centering element is plastic and thus, the material is not required to be shown as plastic. The drawings must show elements of the claim and plastic is not part of the claim. Additionally, Figure 2 is a perspective view and not a cross-section.

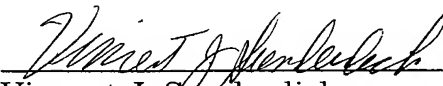
Therefore, in view of the changes to the claim structure to obviate the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and in view of the incorporation of allowable subject matter into independent format, thus obviating the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102, Applicants respectfully request that this application containing claims 1-12 and 15-20 including independent claims 1, 12 and 15 be allowed and be passed to issue.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #028987.52417US).

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Abstract of the Disclosure

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